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A N S W E R

T O A

LETTER in the GAZETTEER

Of October 22, 1768.

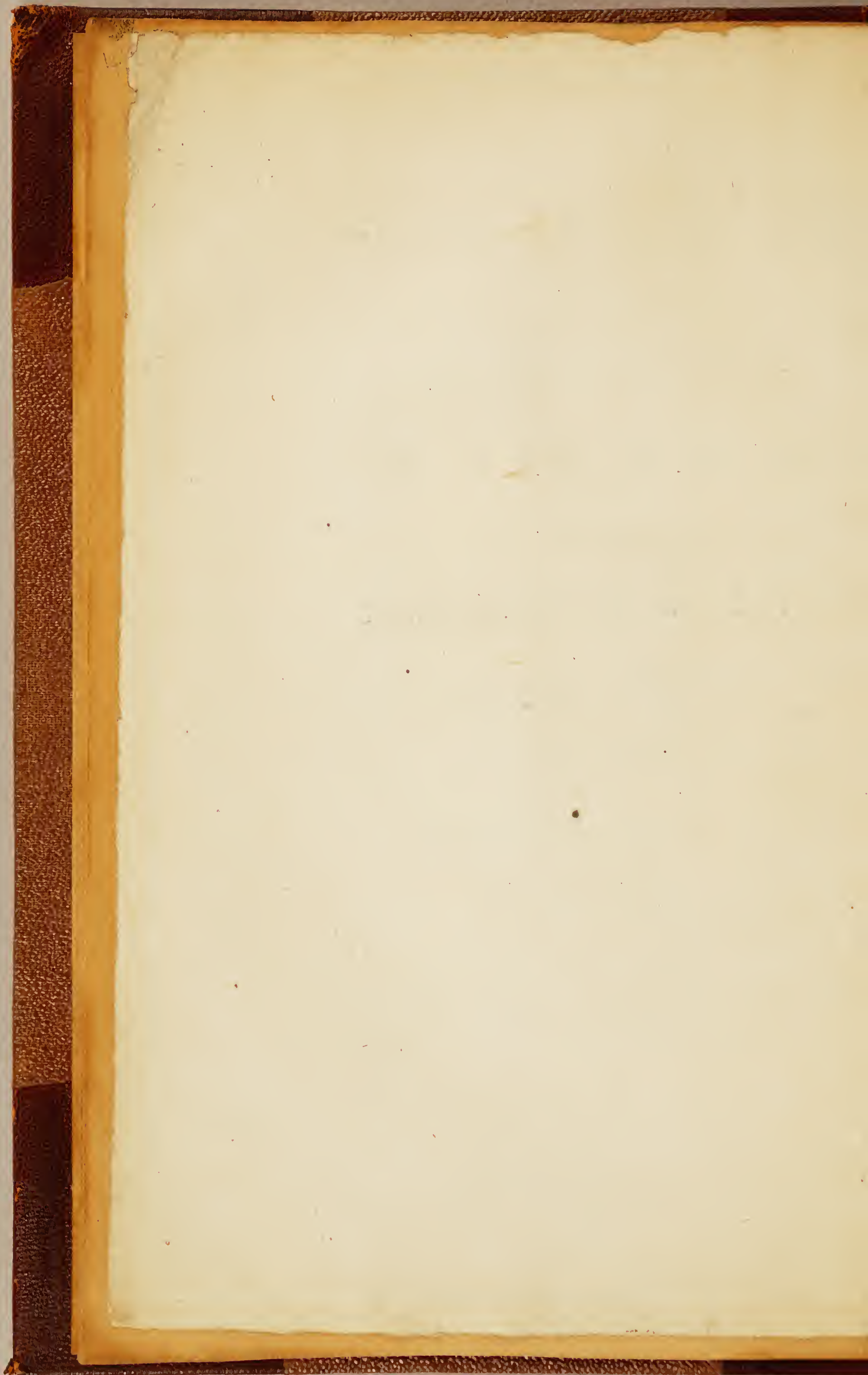
Relative to the

CONDUCT of his Ex———cy

G———R M———LE.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. ALMON, Picadilly, W. JOHNSTON, Ludgate
Street, G. PEARCE, Cheap-side, and G. KEITH,
Grace-Church Street.



A
L E T T E R
T O T H E
Publiſher of the GAZETTEER.

MR. PRINTER,

I WAS in hopes the Anecdote and Letters you were pleaſed to inſert in your Paper of the 11th paſt, would have prevented a certain Weſt - India Governor, lately returned to Europe for the Recovery of his Health, (*perhaps by his Maſtey's expreſs Order*) and his Creatures, from attempting a ſecond Time to puff themſelves off at the Ex-
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pence of others, and to impose upon the Public by pretended Pieces of Intelligence ; but I am convinced of the contrary, by the following Paragraph, which I find in your Paper of the 22d of last Month. “ It is
 “ reported from the West-Indies, that the
 “ French Inhabitants of Grenada, who are
 “ almost wholly Papists, and much more
 “ numerous than his Majesty’s natural-born
 “ Subjects, had found means to chuse an
 “ A——y, with a Majority so much de-
 “ voted to their Views and Pretensions, and
 “ connected with them, that great Mischiefs
 “ were dreaded, had not the Governor put
 “ a Stop to their Animosities by a timely
 “ Prorogation of them for two Months ;
 “ that in Appearance all was quiet there ;
 “ but that the French Inhabitants had se-
 “ cretly dispatched one of their Junto, an
 “ Emissary by way of France into En-
 “ gland, and seemed very confident to ob-
 “ tain Admission into legislative and public
 “ Offices, by his Arts and Solicitations.”

You

You must know, Mr. Printer, that I have some Knowledge of what has passed in Grenada since the Arrival of Governor Melville, and particularly of the Proceedings of *that Assembly*, the Majority whereof is represented to be so much devoted to the French Papist Inhabitants, that the Governor, to put a Stop to Animosities, was obliged to have recourse to a timely Prorogation; therefore must beg leave to give you another Anecdote, from whence I shall leave you and the World to judge of these West-India Reports, and the Veracity of their Intelligence. You may depend upon it, through the whole, I shall carefully avoid following their Example of casting Reflections, either for Place of Birth or Religion, despising so poor a Finesse to raise Prejudices in the Minds of the Vulgar; here contenting myself with shewing the Absurdity, as well as Malignity, of stigmatizing a Sett of People with the Name of *French Papists*, who have all taken the Oath of Supremacy, as well as Allegiance, and by our Sovereign

are styled “ his new adopted Roman Catholic Subjects.” And if I should make it appear that this *timely Prorogation* was nothing more than an artful Expedient to protect a poor dependent Tool, who, in the Capacity of returning Officer, had taken upon him to refuse setting down a Candidate’s Name upon the Poll, or taking any Votes for him : To prevent the Governor’s *Junto* being detected in prostituting the Liberty of the Subject to petition : To gain a most illegal Opportunity to this same *Junto* of publishing scurrilous and illiberal Minutes and Resolutions concerning the Proceedings of the Assembly, so that the same could not be regularly confuted : To screen themselves from being exposed to the World for having interfered in Elections, and taking cognizance of matters which passed thereat, I say, should I shew these to be the Governor’s real Motives *for having recourse to a timely Prorogation*, and that his and his *Junto’s* violent and unjustifiable Measures were the true Cause of an *Emissary’s* secretly
setting

setting out for England by the way of France,
 I hope these Gentlemen will take Shame to
 themselves, and save me the Trouble, for
 the future, of demasking them to the Pu-
 blic. I come now to the Anecdote.

His Majesty's Goodness in granting an
 Assembly to the Island of Grenada, was
 scarce made known to the Inhabitants in
 the Year 1766, when the Members of the
 Council began to go publicly about, solicit-
 ing Votes for particular Persons. An Ordi-
 nance of the Council was passed to regulate
 Elections, and to ascertain the Qualifications
 of Voters and Candidates. A curious Loop-
 hole was left therein for occasional Votes,
 (no six or twelve Months Possession of Free-
 hold being required) I will not say design-
 edly, however strong it may favour thereof,
 from Mr. T——r's Activity in qualifying
 mean Persons with Lands and Tenements,
 to which he since appears to have had no
 Title. Another Expedient was also at-
 tempted; after the honourable *Junto* had
 solicited

solicited the Votes of the new Subjects, and in general were refused, they presented a Petition to the Governor and Council, praying that the *French Papists* (I beg their Pardons, they were then only branded as *Aliens*) might be deprived the Liberty of voting; but this was too glaring, and did not succeed. In short, the Assembly was elected, but not being composed of such Members as the *Junto* wished for, was soon dissolved.

At this Period recourse was had to several Artifices in order to gain the Votes of the new Subjects. Some were closeted at the Government-house, hopes were given to others that a *proper Assembly might pass an Act to entitle a few of them to sit in the House*. But one Piece of Policy and Revenge is not to be omitted: Two poor Coopers, who resided at a lonesome Bay, now called Tyrell's Road, happened to have a Negro Woman addicted to running away, this Woman was likewise connected with one of the Ring-leaders of the Run-away Negroes;

Negroes ; her Masters chastised her ; at which her Companion, being exasperated, spirited up his Comrades, and in a dark Night, fell upon the Coopers and murdered them. Shortly after five Slaves belonging to an elderly Gentleman of that Neighbourhood, Father of a Lady considered amongst the new Subject as having *beaucoup d'Esprit*, who could never be gained over by Menaces or Arguments to use her Influence in behalf of the Governor or his Junto, were apprehended under Suspicion of the Murder, and carried before some of the honourable Gentlemen. Tortures were exercised to force Accusations from them against their Master and his Son, and the poor ignorant Creatures, whilst suspended by Ropes tied to their Hands behind their Backs, gave such Answers, as to them seemed most likely to put an End to their excruciating Pains. Informations being thus procured, the Father and Son were immediately apprehended and committed. A noble Stroke this, to impress

press Terror in the Minds of People brought up under a despotic Government, and totally ignorant of the Liberties of British Subjects, as well as to wreak Vengeance upon a Family that would not submit to Power ! The innocent People however were acquitted, in spite of Party and Prejudice, thanks to an honest Jury. Three of the Slaves languished to Death under their Loads of Irons, and the Hardships of Imprisonment ; the other two were first hastily convicted, and had Sentence pronounced upon them, but at length were discharged without any Kind of Punishment. These Artifices had the desired Effect, the Father and Son, affrighted at such horrid Proceedings, sold their Property and quitted the Island.

*A second Assembly was chosen, " with a
 " Majority so much devoted to the Governor's
 " Views and Pretensions, and so intimately
 " connected with him," that every thing was
 expected to go on according to his Wishes ;
 he was now happy " through his Arts and
 " Soli-*

“ *Solicitations*,” in having two *Juntos*, by means of whom the Island was immediately taxed with about £ 12000, which was very properly laid out in augmenting his Excellency’s Salary; in paying the Rent of his Government-house; in furnishing a very timely supply of £ 800 to the useful Tool *R——n*, who, from being a B--kr-pt, was now raised to the Post of Treasurer; in defraying the Expences of Parties of Pleasure, under the Denomination of Chasse Parties to take up run-away Negroes; in seeing Lawyers to instruct Magistrates how to deprive a Lieutenant Colonel of his Commission, &c. &c. &c. Several very wise and salutary Laws were also passed, particularly the Militia Act, whereby upwards of twenty Offences were declared capital, a Power was given to Officers to punish any Crimes not provided for, by Death or otherwise, at Discretion; and the adopted Subjects were rendered incapable of any higher Rank than that of private Soldiers, unless they would renounce their Religion. The famous Act,

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which

which (contrary to a standing Rule of the House) to oblige the Governor, was read three Times in the same Day, and passed, whereby the notorious Ringleader of the run-away Negroes (*Augustine*) who had murdered Mr. *Vaudelle*, an adopted Subject, had committed a Rape on a white Woman, and had threatened the Life of his Master, was made free. The Act for appointing an Agent, totally devoted to the Governor and Council. The Treasurer's Act; and several others, scarce any of which have met with the Royal Approbation.

Addressees also were obtained from the two *Junto's*, praying his Excellency, for the good of the Island, to defer his Tour to Europe, however necessary it might be for the Recovery of his Health. All this Time the adopted Subjects waited with Impatience for the Act to be passed by *this proper Assembly*, whereby a few of them might be admitted into the House; the Hopes given them by his Excellency, and a Motion made
by

by Mr. *Piggot*, and seconded by Mr. *Robertson*, for leave to bring in Heads of a Bill, declaring all his Majesty's new adopted Subjects "capable of enjoying every Liberty and Immunity of natural-born Subjects" raised their Expectations to a Certainty. At length, the Time approached when this Assembly, chosen for a Year, became dissolved; a Bill to regulate Elections, was just passed; the adopted Subjects applied to the Secretary of the Island for a Sight thereof; by him they were referred to the Printer, who answered, that it was in the Press, and should be published shortly; but none, except the *Juntos*, knew what this famous Bill contained.

After what has been related, it is not surprising that Gentlemen of the first Property in the Island, and of unblemished Characters, in the Opinion of every Body, (except the Governor and his *junto*, or those whose Ears had been poisoned by

C 2 them)

them) should endeavour to get into the Assembly, in order to put a stop to such Profusion of public Money, and to the passing of such oppressive and unpopular Acts, or that a few new Subjects should seem desirous of *being admitted into legislative Offices*: Nay, for a Moment, I will suppose that no Assurances were ever given to the latter of such Indulgence, and that no Persecution was ever set on Foot against Particulars; then let me ask, whether a People, who, when required to surrender to his Britannick Majesty's Troops, immediately consented; who, by express Capitulation, reserved the free public Exercise of their Religion; who, by Treaty, had the same confirmed to them; and who, to a Man, have taken the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, can, consistently with the Law of Nations, be deprived of the Liberty of holding legislative Offices in the Colonies? Or is it sound Policy to raise Distinctions between Conquerors and conquered, under Pretext of Religion, particularly

cularly in a Climate where it is well known, Bigotry does not exist.

But to the Remainder of the Anecdote : Writs being issued, the Election of four Members, to represent the Town of St. George, came on, when Mr. Demouchy, a new Subject, presented himself, and was set up as a Candidate, and several old as well as new Subjects, crouded to vote for him, but to no purpose. Mr. Robertson, the returning Officer, perceiving (by his Visage, I suppose, for there was not any other Proof thereof) that he was a *Papist*, refused to set his Name down upon the Poll, or to receive any Votes for him. This arbitrary Proceeding, of course, occasioned some Altercation. Mr. Cazaud, a Gentleman of considerable Property, but in a different Part of the Island, urged strongly to have his Friend admitted as a Candidate; but to no purpose; whereupon, conformable to the Civil Law, to which the new Subjects had formerly been accustomed

tomed, he began to read a Protest (signed by several Persons) against such Refusal, or any Laws to deprive them of their just Rights, his Voice being low, and the Noise being great, Mr. Demouchy took the Protest in order to read it, but they were both soon quieted, by being taken into Custody, by Order of the returning Officer, and a certain Justice of Peace then present; about this Time, Mr. Robertson was appointed an assistant Judge, (I suppose as a Recompence for his proper Behaviour at the Election) here the illegality, as well as Partiality of Mr. Robertson's Conduct, began to shine forth, no Power was vested in him as returning Officer, to enquire into the Principles of Religion of any Man, by the Election Act which then appeared, " Any Person taking the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, and subscribing the Test before the Governor and Council, if otherwise duly qualified, had a Right to sit in the Assembly; but refusing so to do, " was

“ was liable to a Penalty of one hundred
 “ Pounds.” Matters did not stop here ;
 this was considered as a noble Opening
 to play off the old Piece of Policy-intimi-
 dation. The Protest was gathered up and
 forwarded by Mr. Robertson to his Ex-
 cellency, together with a Letter, repre-
 senting the new Subjects as having insult-
 ed the Legislature of the Colony, and
 having acted in a seditious manner. The
 Governor immediately called a Council to
 take this terrible Paper into Considera-
 tion. Mr. Cazaud was required by Letter
 from their Deputy Clerk, to appear before
 their Honors on a certain Day ; but he be-
 ing engaged to go to an Election on that
 very Day, wrote an Excuse, but promif-
 ed to wait upon them two Days after. A
 Warrant was issued against him, and on
 the 2d of December he was taken into
 Custody as he entered the Town on the
 Evening, with an Intent to appear before
 the Council next Morning.

With

With Difficulty he obtained Permission to remain that Night at a Gentleman's House : The Day after, he was conducted before the Governor and Council, where being asked a Question, and being ignorant both of the English Laws and Tongue, as well as fearful of accusing himself, he desired the Assistance of Council, and refused to answer without such Indulgence, which was not granted ; but the Question was put a second Time, and he still persisted in his Refusal, without the Assistance of his Council, who then desired Admittance at the Door.

This was considered as a heinous Offence, the Fort was thought too good for him, for this terrible Contempt he was committed to a small Prison, deprived in that scorching sickly Country of even a Breath of Air ; and there detained four Days, surrounded by upwards of forty Offenders of different Sorts and Complexions

ions ; neither would they take Security for his Appearance, although several Gentlemen offered to become bound for him, nor was he *liberated*, until he made the following Acknowledgment, dictated by themselves : “ The Committee are of Opinion that Mr. Cazaud de Roumillac do express the deepest Concern for having incurred the Displeasure of his Majesty’s Council, by not complying with their Summons, and by refusing to answer any Questions put to him by them.”

“ They are likewise of Opinion, that he ought to express his fixed Resolution to be always ready in Time to come, to shew Respect, which is due to the Dignity and Authority of that Board.”

“ And they are further of Opinion, that he ought to express the Sense he entertains of the Justice and Moderation of the Council, from the Nature of their Warrant for his Commitment,

“ as by that Warrant, he would be im-
 “ mediately liberated, on making a proper
 “ Submission, praying that in Confidera-
 “ tion of this Submission, we would be
 “ pleased to order that he should be
 “ released from his Confinement.”

“ N. B. No pleading Ignorance of Laws ;
 “ this to be made public to prevent such
 “ Contempt from others.”

Then he was ordered by the Council to appear before them on the Tuesday following ; but he not being desirous of experiencing any more *of their Lenity and Moderation*, set out for London, by the Way of Martinique and France ; and since his Arrival, has actually obtained Admission for a certain Number of new Subjects, both into the Council and Assembly, to the great Joy of every impartial Man of Property in the Island of Grenada.

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This Handle was not yet let go ; all the Subscribers of the Protest were summoned before the Council ; where, after being required to prove their own Hand Writing, they were obliged to give Security in twelve hundred Pounds each, for their Appearance at the next Court of Quarter Sessions.

This was not all ; a Petition to the Governor and Council was handed about, representing the *French Papists* as “ engaged in rebelling, raising Sedition, and withdrawing themselves from their Allegiance to his Majesty.” I beg his Excellency may not be alarmed, least I should trace this Petition back to himself ; no, I shall stop when I come to his private Secretary ; but the Council must excuse me, if I say, that although it was addressed to themselves, they did not observe any kind of Decency, or endeavour, in the least, to save Appearances ; on the contrary, they were very active in getting

Subscribers ; nay, the unhappy Counsellor, who has since fallen a Victim to his own Violence of Temper, produced it at St. Patrick's, on the Day of Election, whilst he was sitting as Returning Officer ; and gladly would have engaged a Gentleman then present, and even a Member of the Council, to set their Names to it. This Petition had glorious Success ; the Names or Marks of three hundred and thirty-seven Managers, Overseers, Distillers, Clerks, Masons, Carpenters, Taylors, Coblers, Sailors, indented Servants, &c. &c. were procured ; but little did these wise Gentlemen think that they were now sapping their own Foundation, and depriving themselves of an Expedient to carry their Revenge still further, which had often been exercised in Grenada with great Success ; I mean the packing of a Jury. Every prejudiced or dependent Man in the Island, had been either induced or intimidated to set his Name or Mark to this Petition, founded upon the Protest ; and having thus pre-
judged

judged the Matter, rendered themselves incapable of being impanelled ; by and by you shall see how all this ended.

Now in the Name of Wonder let me ask, what Business had the Governor and Council to meddle in these Matters ? The Assembly being dissolved, they could not sit in a legislative Capacity ; and even if they could, ought they to have interfered in Matters of Election ? Does the House of Lords now sit and take Cognizance of what has passed at the Election of Members of the House of Commons ? As a Privy Council had they any Power ? Or does the Privy Council here attempt such Things ? What Authority had they to drag this Gentleman before them, and then to cast him into a Prison far worse than any Condemned Hole in Newgate, because he would not, through fear of accusing himself, without the Assistance of Council answer Questions, which, if not drawn up, were probably perused and settled by the Attorney General ? Is
there

there a Star-Chamber in any Part of his Britannic Majesty's Dominions now-a-days? Certainly these Folks were so intoxicated with the Idea of their Dignity and Importance, that they turned Papists for a Moment, and formed themselves into an Inquisition. Here let me not be understood to comprehend with them, one Gentleman of Calmness, Sense and Impartiality, who used every Argument to bring them to their Reason, and finding all his Efforts ineffectual, resigned his Place at that Honourable Board.

The Elections being over, some of the Members met at *St. George's* on the 15th of *December*, and being duly sworn before his Excellency in Council, retired to chuse a Speaker; which being done, the Assembly attended the Governor and Council, to present the Gentleman they had made choice of, and then received the following very laconic Speech; which, though stuffed with a Number of pretty gingling Words, yet
con-

conveyed an oblique Insinuation that the Assembly wanted Respect for their Sovereign, and Attachment to the British Constitution.

“ Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

“ I have only to recommend to you,
 “ That with the most dutiful Respect to
 “ the Crown, strict Attachment to our
 “ happy Constitution and sincere legisla-
 “ tive Harmony, you proceed to do every
 “ Thing depending on you, for the Prof-
 “ perity and Reputation of Grenada and
 “ the Grenadines.”

The Assembly, instead of taking Fire at these unmerited Aspersions, appointed a Committee to prepare an Address to his Excellency; and then proceeded to consider of Rules and Orders. The Remainder of this, and the succeeding Day, were spent upon this and other Business, not worth inserting.

serting. On the 17th the following Address was presented to the Governor.

“ May it please your Excellency.

“ We the Representatives of the People
 “ of the Island of Grenada and the Gre-
 “ nadines, having duly considered your
 “ Speech, beg leave, with the greatest Sin-
 “ cerity to declare that we should be very
 “ unworthy of our happy Constitution, did
 “ we not entertain the most dutiful Respect
 “ for the best of Sovereigns; and your
 “ Excellency must be fully convinced,
 “ that this Colony has, on all Occasions,
 “ shewn every Mark of Loyalty.

“ There is nothing we more ardently
 “ wish for, than a happy Unanimity in
 “ such Measures as shall best promote the
 “ Prosperity of his Majesty's Government,
 “ and the Quiet, Peace and Welfare of both
 “ his natural-born and adopted Subjects;
 “ and it shall be our first Care to endea-
 “ your

“ your to remove any Uneasiness where-
 “ by that general Harmony, so essentially
 “ necessary for the valuable Purposes of
 “ Government, has been interrupted.”

One of the Members informed the House on the 18th, that he had seen a Paper, purporting to be a Petition to his Excellency and the Council, from some of the old Subjects against the new, tending to breed much Dissention, and to intimidate the latter from voting with the Freedom of British Subjects at Elections; and therefore moved, and was seconded, that the Governor might be humbly addressed to send down such Petition, and all Papers transmitted or delivered to him relative to the late Elections. A Message was sent to his Excellency to the foregoing Purport, in answer to which he signified, that he had directed the Clerk of the Council to furnish the Assembly with a Copy of the Petition, together with the Protest of the new Sub-

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jects,

jects, and the Letter of the Returning Officer.

On the 19th a Member from the Committee of Elections, Privileges, Grievances and Trade reported to the House, that a Petition had been presented to them by two Freeholders of St. George's, complaining that they, with several others, were refused the Liberty of voting for Mr. Demouchy, by Mr. Robertson, Returning Officer.—Whereupon a Motion was made, that he might be ordered to attend the House, and it was resolved accordingly.

About this Time a Copy of the Petition of the old Subjects to the Governor and Council (differing widely from the Original handed about) also of the Protest, and of the Returning Officer's Letter, were sent down to the Assembly, and afterwards laid before the above-mentioned Committee, who, upon Examination of several of the Subscribers to the Petition, discovered that
it

it was not founded on any real Cause of Complaint, and that it first appeared at Mr. Sympson's Office (the Governor's private Secretary) and that he had made Use of every artful Method his fertile Genius could invent, to engage or intimidate poor Creatures to sign the same. (For Instance: Mr. Sympson begs the Favour of Mr. Bennet and Mr. Knight to sign this Petition. Mr. Sympson's Compliments to Mr. Martin Mender of Sadles, begs the Favour of his Signature to this Petition. Mr. Sympson to Mauritz Hartman, German Taylor, if he does not sign this Petition, he shall be imprisoned, or turned off the Island, being an Alien.)

Mr. Robertson appeared at the Bar of the House, prayed the Assistance of Council, which was granted, and on the 21st the House proceeded to examine Witnesses concerning Mr. Robertson's Conduct at the Election, and continued so to do untill the 24th. During the Course of the Examina-

tion it appearing that Mr. Nethercote, a Magistrate, had been extremely officious and vehement in calling for Constables, and ordering them to take Mr. Demouchy and Mr. Cazaud into Custody, and carry them to Goal; he was also ordered to attend. At length, the Charges being clearly proved against them, and it appearing that they had acted in this wanton Manner, purely to intimidate the Voters, the House unanimously resolved, “ That any Return-
 “ ing Officer presuming to refuse any Per-
 “ son offered as a Candidate, acted in an
 “ illegal and unconstitutional Manner.”—
 “ That any Returning Officer presuming
 “ to refuse the Vote of any Person taking
 “ the Oath prescribed by Law, also acted
 “ in an illegal and unconstitutional Man-
 “ ner.”—“ That Mr. Robertson had acted
 “ in the most overbearing, illegal and un-
 “ constitutional Manner, in refusing to take
 “ a Poll for Mr. Demouchy, and thereby
 “ guilty of a high Breach of the Privilege
 “ of the House.”—Therefore Mr. Robert-
 son

son was ordered to be brought to the Bar, there to acknowledge his Fault, ask Pardon of the House and be discharged.]

Mr. Robertson being at the Bar, instead of making this Acknowledgement (required only to support the just Authority of the Assembly in Matters of Election) attempted to justify his Conduct, and absolutely refused to make the least Submission. Mr. Nethercote of course followed his Example. Whereupon they were both committed. The House sat untill six o'Clock that Evening, hoping they would come to their Senses, and make the necessary Concessions; but all was in vain, for they were spirited to the contrary by the Governor and *his Junta*. The House then adjourned to the 13th of January for the Christmas Holidays; and at eight o'Clock the same Evening the two Offenders were brought, by Habeas Corpus, before Mr. Turner and Mr. Maxwell, two Members of the Council,

cil, Assistant Judges, &c. &c. and by them enlarged.

On the 11th the *Honourable Junta* met, and taking into Consideration “ the unhappy State to which the Assembly had reduced the Island, and being desirous of stifling the Heats and Distractions which they had occasioned, and the Animosities which they had raised, even to a Height to endanger the Peace and Happiness of the Colony,” advised his Excellency to have recourse to a Timely Prorogation for Two Months.

Thus the Power of the Assembly being for a Time suspended, the Council thought this a charming Opportunity to cast the Odium of their black Deeds upon the former, and therefore sat on the 15th (the Assembly being then prorogued) received the following Report from their Committee, and came to the following Resolutions :

“ The

“ The Minutes of the 11th instant, be-
 “ ing read and approved, the honourable
 “ Robert Turner, Esq; Chairman of the
 “ Committee, appointed the 4th instant, to
 “ take into Consideration “ The present
 “ unhappy State of this Island ; and to re-
 “ port their Opinion of the most effectual
 “ Means of quieting the Heats and Dis-
 “ tractions, at present subsisting therein,”
 “ acquainted the Board, That since their
 “ previous Report of the 11th instant,
 “ they had proceeded to, and finished the
 “ Consideration of the Matters referred to
 “ them ; and laid the following further
 “ Report before the Board :

“ That it is the Opinion of your Com-
 “ mittee, that his Majesty's natural-born
 “ Subjects of this Colony, have the great-
 “ est Reason to be alarmed at the late
 “ Attempt, made by a Number of his
 “ Majesty's new adopted Roman Catholic
 “ Subjects, to intrude and force them-
 “ selves into the Legislature, and conse-
 “ quently

“ quently into Offices and Places of
 “ Trust in Opposition to the Laws of
 “ Great-Britain, and to an express Act of
 “ the Legislature of this Colony; which
 “ Attempt, we cannot but consider to be
 “ not only most undutiful to his Majesty,
 “ (as being in direct Contradiction to his
 “ Royal Commission and Instructions,
 “ under which Authority alone, that Le-
 “ gislature is constituted) but likewise
 “ evidently dangerous to the Safety of
 “ these Islands:

“ That it appears to your Committee:
 “ that the present Assembly, chosen al-
 “ most entirely by the said new adopted
 “ Roman Catholic Subjects, seems to have
 “ encouraged them in this audacious At-
 “ tempt, as appears by their sending to
 “ Prison one of the Judges of the Court
 “ of Common Pleas for these Islands
 “ (who acted as returning Officer for the
 “ Town of St. George) for refusing to
 “ confess at the Bar of their House; that
 “ he

“ he had been guilty of a Breach of their
 “ Privilege, in refusing, in an illegal and
 “ unconstitutional Manner, to admit as a
 “ Candidate, for said Town, Jean Baptift
 “ Demouchy (who was known, by the re-
 “ turning Officer, to be a professed Roman
 “ Catholick ;) and for refusing to acknow-
 “ ledge and ask Pardon for his Fault,” al-
 “ though it appears to your Committee,
 “ that the said returning Officer acted a-
 “ greeable to an Act of these Islands,
 “ and conformable to the Advice of his
 “ Majesty’s Attorney-General, whose Opin-
 “ ion on the true Construction of the said
 “ Act, he had the Precaution to take ;
 “ and likewise by committing to Prison
 “ Mr. Nethercote, one of the Magistrates
 “ of this Island, for refusing to confess at
 “ the Bar of their House, “ That he had
 “ been guilty of a Breach of the Privilege of
 “ their House, by his illegal and disorderly
 “ Behaviour at the said Election, and to ask
 “ Pardon for his Fault,” although it appears
 “ to your Committee, that the said Magistrate

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“ acted

“ acted as became his Station, in commit-
 “ ting to the Custody of a Constable,
 “ one Mr. Cazaud, who was no Free-
 “ holder of the Town of St. George,
 “ and who was disturbing the Freedom
 “ of the said Election ; which Proceed-
 “ ings of the House and Assembly, ap-
 “ pears to your Committee, to be fatal to
 “ the Properties and Liberties of his Ma-
 “ jesty’s Subjects, as it is evident what
 “ dreadful Consequences must arise from
 “ any one Branch of the Legislature of
 “ these Colonies, arbitrarily assuming to
 “ themselves, the Power of committing
 “ to Prison, Judges and Magistrates,
 “ though acting, to the best of their
 “ Judgment, agreeable to the Laws of
 “ Great Britain, and the Acts of the Le-
 “ gislature of this Colony ; or from either
 “ Branch of the Legislature, creating, by
 “ Votes or Declarations, Privileges to
 “ themselves, not warranted by the Con-
 “ stitutions or Laws of these Islands.

“ Your

“ Your Committee cannot likewise but
 “ represent the very extraordinary Proceed-
 “ ings of the House of Assembly, with
 “ respect to a very dutiful Address, signed
 “ by far the greatest Part of his Majesty’s
 “ natural-born Subjects of this Island, and
 “ presented to his Excellency and the Board,
 “ at a Time that no Assembly existed, set-
 “ ting forth their just Alarm at the late
 “ Attempt of the new adopted Roman
 “ Catholick Subjects, to intrude and force
 “ themselves into the Legislature, &c. and
 “ likewise setting forth their bold Presump-
 “ tion in delivering a Paper, called a Pro-
 “ test, wherein they deny the Authority
 “ of Laws made with the Consent of
 “ their own Representatives, and the
 “ Power of Legislature, established by the
 “ King’s Commission and Instructions, to
 “ make Acts to bind them, and praying
 “ his Excellency and the Board, to take
 “ such Measures to defeat the said Attempt,
 “ as to his Excellency and the Board
 “ should seem meet.

“ Your Committee cannot but consider
 “ the Right of petitioning the Crown, or
 “ the Crown’s Representative, or any
 “ Branch of the Legislature, as the in-
 “ herent or indubitable Privilege of every
 “ British Subject.

“ Yet the Assembly, from the Nature
 “ of a Message, sent to his Excellency,
 “ requiring a Copy of the said Address,
 “ and from the Proceedings of their Com-
 “ mittee of Grievances thereupon, seemed
 “ to have viewed this Transaction in a
 “ criminal Light.

“ For it appears to your Committee,
 “ that the Committee of Grievances of
 “ the said Assembly, did summon before
 “ them a Number of the said Petitioners,
 “ where they were examined in a Man-
 “ ner that induced them to believe, that
 “ they had incurred the Disapprobation,
 “ and were become Objects of the Dis-
 “ pleasure of the said House of Assembly,
 “ to

“ to the great Uneasiness and Disquiet
“ of the said Petitioners.

“ Which Proceedings are manifestly sub-
“ versive of the necessary inherent and
“ legal Rights of every British Subject,
“ as established by the Bill of Rights.

“ Resolved unanimously, That the said
“ Report be approved. The Board having
“ duly considered the Matter of the said
“ Report, came to the following Reso-
“ lutions :

“ Resolved unanimously, That the late
“ Attempt of his Majesty's New adopted
“ Roman Catholick Subjects of this Island,
“ to intrude themselves into the Legisla-
“ ture, is a manifest Violation of the Laws
“ of Great Britain, and of the Constitution
“ and Laws of this Colony.

“ Resolved unanimously, That neither
“ Branch of the Legislature have Power,
“ by

“ by Vote or Resolution, to create to them-
 “ selves Privileges not warranted by the
 “ Constitution and Laws of these Islands.

“ Resolved unanimously, That either
 “ Branch of the Legislature committing to
 “ Prison any of his Majesty's Subjects, up-
 “ on Privileges created to themselves by
 “ Vote or Resolution, not warranted by the
 “ Constitution and known Laws of these
 “ Islands, is subjecting his Majesty's Sub-
 “ jects, and the Freedom of their Persons,
 “ to most arbitrary Determinations, highly
 “ destructive of their Liberties.

“ Resolved unanimously, That it is the
 “ inherent Right of every British Subject,
 “ humbly to address his Majesty, his Ma-
 “ jesty's Representative, or either Branch of
 “ the Legislature, for the Redress of Grie-
 “ vances, or the Prevention of any Evils
 “ they may be apprehensive of.

“ Re-

“ Resolved unanimously, That it is the
 “ Opinion of the Board, that from the
 “ unhappy State of this Island, on Account
 “ of the violent Animosities subsisting be-
 “ tween the old and new Subjects, occa-
 “ sioned by the undutiful and unconstitu-
 “ tional Conduct of the latter ; and by the
 “ late very extraordinary Proceedings of the
 “ Assembly, there is no Prospect that any
 “ public legislative Business will be carried
 “ on for the Good of these Islands untill
 “ his Majesty’s Pleasure shall be known on
 “ those Matters, and we do therefore re-
 “ commend to his Excellency, forthwith
 “ to transmit to his Majesty a Copy of the
 “ Report of the Committee, and of these
 “ Resolutions.

“ Resolved unanimously, That the Printer
 “ be desired to print the Report of the Com-
 “ mittee, and the Minutes of the Council,
 “ as far as relates to this Matter, forthwith ;
 “ and the Members of the Council will take
 “ Care to defray the Expence thereof.”

The

The Time now drew nigh when the terrible Affair of the Protest was to be tried. Lawyers in all the Islands had been consulted, to find some Crime in it; but to no Purpose. A Jury, I have already shewn, could not be packed; what Expedient then was to be fallen upon? Oh! it is clear, the old one, a Resolution of the Council “*that the Conduct of the French*” “*Papists*” (in not voting as the Governor and his Junto would have them) “*was extremely criminal in the Eye of the Law;*” “*but these People were betrayed into this unwarrantable Proceeding, by Ignorance of*” “*our Laws and Constitution, or by the*” “*artful Insinuations of some turbulent and*” “*evil minded Persons; therefore an Application was to be made to his Excellency, to order the Proceedings to be stopped, in Hopes that this Mark of Lenity*” “*might induce them*” to be more docile for the future. The Prorogation being at an End on the 12th of March, the Assembly met; but several of the Members

bers being absent, nothing material was entered on untill the 18th, when the Minutes and Resolutions of the Council of the 11th and 15th of January, and 7th of February were taken into Consideration ; and the Assembly came to, and agreed upon the following Resolutions and Address to his Majesty.

“ 1st, Resolved, That it is a false and
 “ scandalous Aspersion, and a high Breach
 “ of the Privilege of this House to assert,
 “ That the Proceedings of the Assembly
 “ against Walter Robertson and John Ne-
 “ thercote, Esqs, tended only to inflame
 “ and increase the Heats and Distractions
 “ which have arisen in this Island ; these
 “ Heats and Distractions having arisen sole-
 “ ly from the Council arrogating to them-
 “ selves Privileges which are unconstitu-
 “ tional, and inconsistent with their Office
 “ as Counsellors, by perpetually interfering
 “ in Elections, summoning before them
 “ Voters, there denying them Council, or
 G even

“ even permitting them to speak in their
 “ Defence, committing one Gentleman of
 “ considerable Property to the Common
 “ Goal for refusing to answer them Ques-
 “ tions concerning his Behaviour at an
 “ Election, binding over several Voters to
 “ the Grand Sessions, for Matters happen-
 “ ing at an Election, and for which they
 “ never attempted to prosecute them, it
 “ being notorious that the smallest Breach
 “ of the Peace had not been committed.

“ 2d. Resolved, That it is a malicious
 “ Aspersion, and a high Breach of the Pri-
 “ vilege of this House to assert, That the
 “ Members of the present Assembly have
 “ been chosen almost entirely by his Ma-
 “ jesty's New Roman Catholick Subjects,
 “ and that it is notorious that the Elections
 “ were unanimous for the whole Mem-
 “ bers serving in this present Assembly,
 “ except for the Town and Parish of
 “ St. Georges, where there were only
 “ two dissenting Votes, for the Parish of
 “ St.

“ St. Andrew, and for the Island of Ca-
 “ riouacou, where the Members chosen
 “ met with very little Opposition; and
 “ consequently that there hardly ever was
 “ a General Election in Great Britain, or
 “ in any Colony, more unanimous.

“ 3d. Resolved, That it is equally false,
 “ and a high Breach of the Privilege of
 “ this House to assert, That this House
 “ has encouraged his Majesty’s new Ro-
 “ man Catholick Subjects to intrude and
 “ force themselves into the Legislature,
 “ and consequently in Places of Trust and
 “ Profit, by committing to Goal John Ne-
 “ thercote and Walter Robertson, Esqrs;
 “ when it is well known, and the Coun-
 “ cil themselves must be conscious, that
 “ they were committed for a Contempt, in
 “ refusing to submit to the mildest Sentence
 “ that could possibly be passed upon such
 “ Offenders, to acknowledge their Fault,
 “ and beg Pardon of the House; which
 “ mild Sentence was passed upon them,

“ purely to maintain the Authority of this
 “ House in Matters of Election, and to
 “ prevent returning Officers, who are ge-
 “ nerally Members of the Council, assum-
 “ ing to themselves the Power of judging
 “ the Religion and Qualifications of Can-
 “ didates, the Law having already fixed a
 “ Penalty upon Roman Catholicks, or such
 “ as are not qualified, for offering them-
 “ selves Candidates, and this House having
 “ the sole Right to judge in these Matters.

“ 4th. Resolved, That it is a gross Af-
 “ fersion and highly indecent for those
 “ Gentlemen who sat in Council the 15th
 “ of January, to accuse this House of ha-
 “ ving created, by Votes and Declarations,
 “ Privileges not warranted by the Usage of
 “ Parliament, or the Laws of this Colony,
 “ and subversive of the Liberty of the Sub-
 “ ject, this House having asserted no Pri-
 “ vilege but that of being the sole Judges
 “ in every Thing relative to Elections,
 “ which

“ which Privilege is confirmed to them by
 “ a Law of this Colony.

“ 5th. Resolved, That it is a high Breach
 “ of the Privilege of this House, for the
 “ Council to pretend to judge in what
 “ Light the Assembly viewed a Memorial
 “ presented to his Excellency, and that the
 “ Council have no Right to take Cogni-
 “ zance of any Transaction of this House,
 “ untill it shall come properly before them;
 “ and further, that they have misrepresent-
 “ ed the Proceedings of the Committee of
 “ Grievances, upon the Memorial in ques-
 “ tion, in the grossest Manner.

“ 6th. Resolved, That some of the Gen-
 “ tlemen who sat in Council the 15th of
 “ January, have prostituted the Right of
 “ the Subject to petition, by promoting
 “ Subscriptions to a Memorial addressed to
 “ themselves, visibly intended to raise Jea-
 “ lousies and Fears entirely groundless, to
 “ create Distinctions between the Old and
 “ New

“ New Subjects, and to drive the latter out
 “ of the Colony ; at the same Time com-
 “ plimenting themselves, by casting the
 “ most illiberal Reflections upon the Re-
 “ presentatives of the People.

“ 7th. Resolved, That it is illegal and
 “ unconstitutional for those Gentlemen to
 “ assume to themselves a Power of meet-
 “ ing, as a Part of the Legislature, when
 “ the Assembly stood prorogued, and by
 “ Votes and Declarations endeavouring to
 “ fix a Brand upon the only solid Founda-
 “ tion of British Liberty, a free Assembly ;
 “ and when that Assembly had no Oppor-
 “ tunity to justify themselves to their So-
 “ vereign, or Constituents, by answering
 “ such outrageous Abuse.”

The Address to his Majesty from the Af-
 sembly.

“ May

“ May it please your Majesty,

“ We your Majesty’s most dutiful, loyal
 “ and faithful Subjects, the Representatives
 “ of the People of your Islands, Grena-
 “ da and the Grenadines, beg Leave, with
 “ the greatest Humility, to approach your
 “ sacred Person, to lay before your Ma-
 “ jesty, the Distress this Colony has, for
 “ a considerable Time past, laboured un-
 “ der, from the Violence and Intrigues of
 “ your Majesty’s Council.

“ The Concern for the Welfare and
 “ Prosperity of all your Majesty’s Subjects,
 “ however remote, which your Majesty
 “ has demonstrated on so many important
 “ Occasions, inspires us with the highest
 “ Confidence of your Majesty’s Protection :
 “ We have always considered, that the dif-
 “ ferent Branches of the Legislature ought
 “ to be free and independent of each
 “ other ; and therefore could not help ob-
 “ serving, with Concern, the strong In-
 “ terpo-

“ terpositions of the other two Branches
 “ in Elections of Members to serve in the
 “ General Assembly, and the Partiality of
 “ Returning Officers, who are always
 “ named by the Commander in Chief.

“ The Assembly, under the Necessity
 “ of shewing their Disapprobation of such
 “ Measures, and particularly of returning
 “ Officers assuming to themselves the
 “ Right of taking or refusing Votes at
 “ their Pleasure, upon a Complaint made
 “ to them, summoned before them, a re-
 “ turning Officer; and after Examination
 “ of Witnesses three Days, when it was
 “ fully proved, that he refused their Votes
 “ for a Candidate, and could only give
 “ for Reason, That he believed him to be
 “ a Roman Catholick. The Assembly,
 “ studious of giving an Example of Mo-
 “ deration, simply condemning him and
 “ a Justice of Peace, who, at the same
 “ Election, had ordered a Candidate and
 “ his Agent into Custody, to acknowledge
 “ their

“ their Fault and beg Pardon of the
 “ House : This Submission, they in the
 “ most obstinate Manner, refused to make ;
 “ upon which they were ordered into the
 “ common Goal. The Evening follow-
 “ ing, and when the House of Assembly
 “ did not stand prorogued, they were
 “ taken out by Patrick Maxwell and Ro-
 “ bert Turner, Esqrs; Members of the
 “ Council and Assistant Judges, and be-
 “ fore the Assembly could again meet,
 “ they were prorogued. Notwithstand-
 “ ing this Prorogation, the Council con-
 “ tinued to sit ; and considering them-
 “ selves still in their legislative Capacity,
 “ published their Minutes of the 11th and
 “ 15th of January, wherein they passed
 “ the most virulent and abusive Resolutions
 “ concerning the Assembly, rested on the
 “ grossest Misrepresentations of Facts.

“ The Assembly, though deeply affect-
 “ ed with the Indecency of such Pro-
 “ ceedings on the Part of the Council,

G

“ beg

“ beg Leave only to observe, that the
 “ Grand Jury, duly summoned and con-
 “ sisting entirely of natural born Subjects,
 “ and the principal Inhabitants of the
 “ Colony, thought it their indispensable
 “ Duty, unanimously to address your Ma-
 “ jesty’s Governor to call the Assembly,
 “ which then stood prorogued.

“ Most Gracious Sovereign,

“ We are extremely mortified, to find
 “ it incumbent on us, at present, to ac-
 “ quaint your Majesty of the Difficulties
 “ this Colony has already experienced, and is
 “ still like to feel, from the Obstruction of
 “ publick Business, owing solely to the
 “ Wantoness and caballing Spirit [of those
 “ in Power, their constant Attempts to
 “ villify and overbear the Representatives
 “ of your Majesty’s Subjects of this Co-
 “ lony.

“ We

“ We forbear enumerating the many
 “ Instances of Artifice and Intrigue prac-
 “ tised here with Authority, and tending
 “ only to the Gratification of Individuals ;
 “ convinced that your Royal Justice, which
 “ has ever been extended to the meanest
 “ of your Subjects, will assure to this
 “ Colony, a Continuation of your Ma-
 “ jesty’s paternal Regard.”

On the 19th the Signers of the Protest were ordered to attend the House on Friday the 25th Instant. The Resolutions and Orders relating to Mr. Robertson and Mr. Nethercote were at the same Time read, and a Messenger was ordered to take them into Custody, and to bring them to the Bar. Mr. Robertson only being found was conducted thither, but there repeatedly refused to make the required Acknowledgement, and therefore was again committed ; but did not long remain in Prison, the Governor having for once vouchsafed to venture

from behind the Curtain, and set him at Liberty.

On the 25th the Signers of the Protest attended the House according to the Order of the 19th, and several being examined, it clearly appeared, that from the Assurances of his Excellency, the Motion made by Mr. Piggot and seconded by Mr. Robertson, as well as several Letters wrote to them from London, they had the strongest Reason to imagine a few of them might be admitted into the Assembly; also that they had not the least Intention of insulting the Legislature, or of denying that Acts of the Island were binding upon them, as was very evident from their never attempting to set up another new Subject as a Candidate, after they had seen the Election Act; and that their sole Motive for protesting, was to preserve their Rights, and, according to the Laws which they had been brought up under, this Formality was necessary on such Occasions, therefore they were discharged. The
As-

Assembly was shortly after adjourned, and kept in that State untill after the Departure of Governor Melville, when the following Address was presented to his Successor, Lieutenant Governor Fitzmaurice :

“ We his Majesty’s most dutiful, loyal
 “ and faithful Subjects, the Representatives
 “ of his Islands, Grenada and the Gren-
 “ dines in General Assembly, beg leave to
 “ thank your Honour for your Speech, and
 “ to offer our hearty Congratulations on
 “ your Succession to the Administration of
 “ this Government. We are so much the
 “ more joyful upon this interesting Occa-
 “ sion, that from your Character, and the
 “ Marks you give of an upright Conduct,
 “ we expect you will fulfill, towards these
 “ Colonies, the good Intentions of our most
 “ gracious Sovereign, for the Prosperity and
 “ Happiness of all his People; and that
 “ we shall be relieved from the Confusion
 “ Anxiety and Distresses, into which we
 “ have

“ have been long and unmeritedly plung-
 “ ed, by the Oppression and Artifices of
 “ a designing Man, whose Station ought
 “ to have instilled into him nobler Princi-
 “ ples. We request your Honour will be
 “ assured that it is, and always has been,
 “ our most sincere Inclination, as well as
 “ it is our Duty, to make every Effort
 “ that can contribute to the perfect Se-
 “ curity, Tranquility and Welfare of
 “ these Colonies; as it always has been
 “ our Study to avoid every Motive which
 “ had not for its Object, the publick
 “ Good, it shall be constantly our chief
 “ Care, to remove every Obstacle in the
 “ Way of what we most ardently wish
 “ to promote.”

Thus my present Anecdote is finished;
 but I have others of as deep a Dye,
 which if the *Junto* force me, I will give
 unto the Publick. In the mean Time,
 if you or any of your Readers shall enter-
 tain

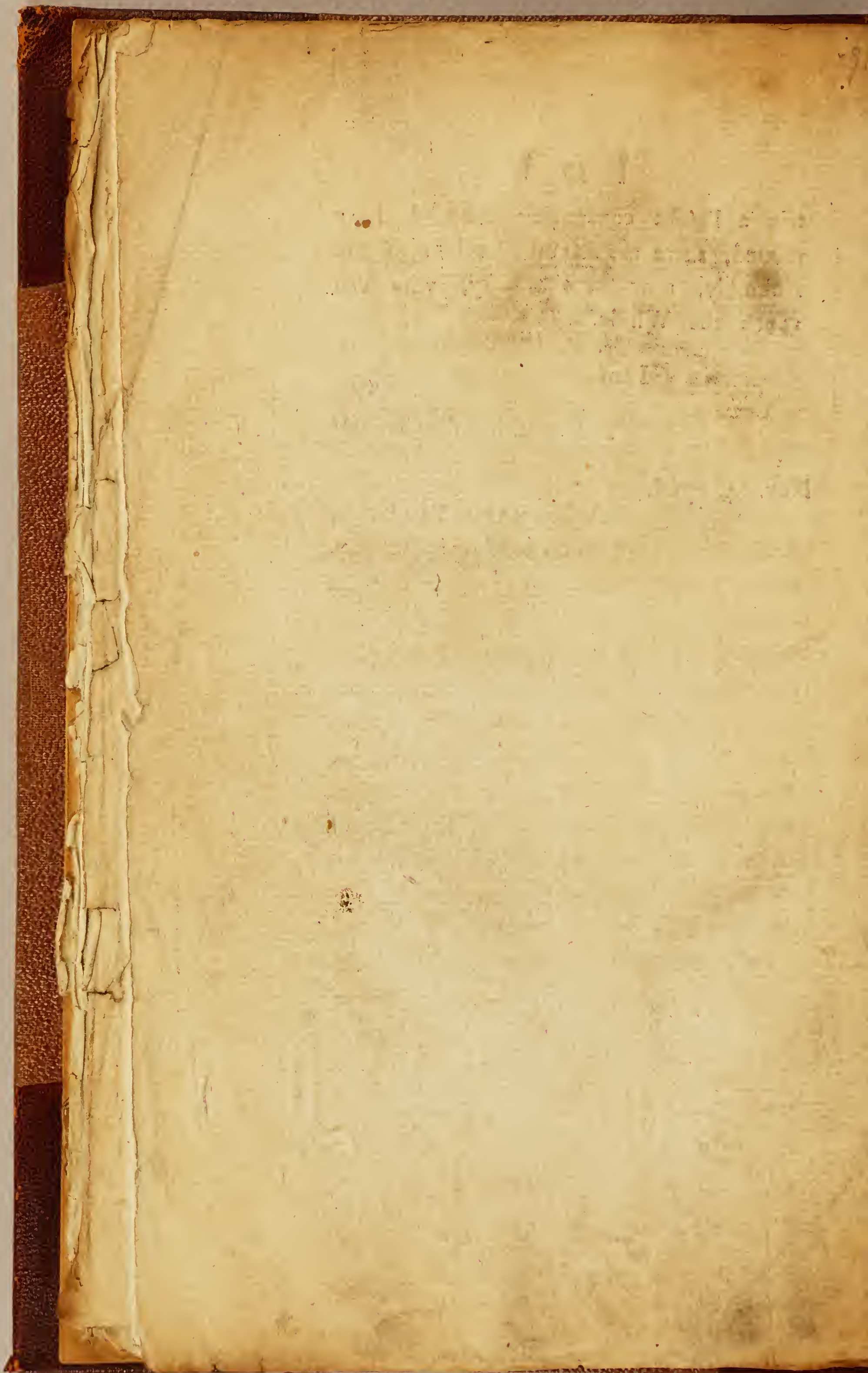
tain a Doubt concerning what I have related, there are several Members of the Assembly, now in this City, who can vouch the Whole.

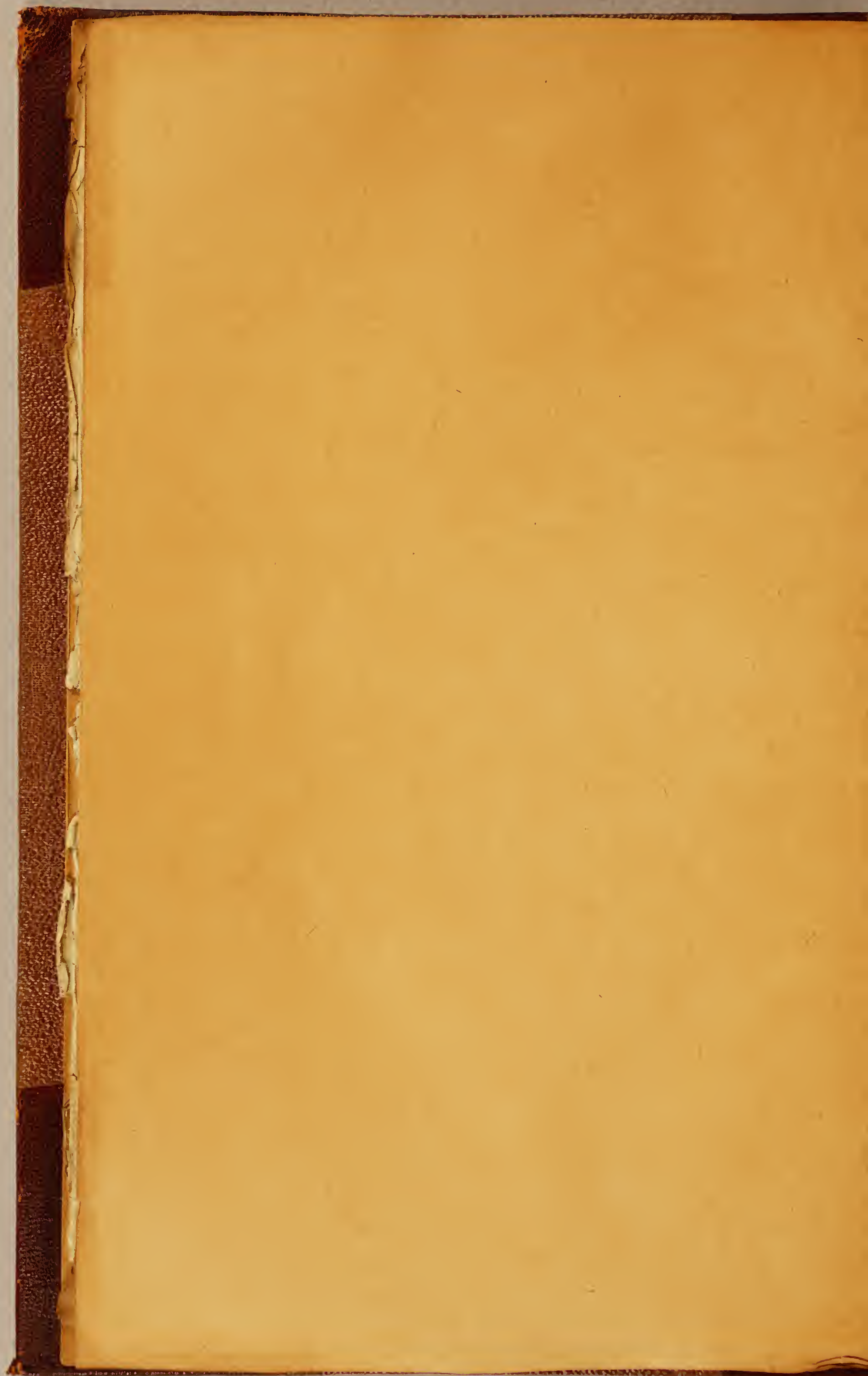
I am

Your most humble Servant,

Nov. 14, 1768.

A GRENADA PLANTER,
now residing in London.







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G 826 p

